



### Did You Know?

*Noxious weeds can be fire and flooding hazards? The dead dry material is very flammable, plus weeds replace the more fire resistant native plants. Due to their root structure weeds destabilize stream banks which increases bank erosion & flood hazards.*



Goats munching on perennial pepperweed at Mud Lake.

Thanks to the USFS!  
Photo by M. Easton

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# The Flow

*News of the plans, projects and people of the Carson River Watershed*

Winter 2010/2011

## Tis the Season for FLOODING!

**Let it snow, let it rain, will it flood?** In Western Nevada our major floods typically occur in late December and early January. When we have a “pineapple express” the chances for flooding significantly increase. These weather systems have origins in the Hawaiian tropics (hence the pineapple) so have an abundance of warm, tropical moisture. These systems tend to be wetter and have high potential for flooding due to the following compounding effects:

- 1) Precipitation falls as rain instead of snow in the mountains, increasing the run-off into local streams and rivers.
- 2) The existing snow begins to melt at lower mountain altitudes, adding more water into the streams and rivers.

Most of the major flood events throughout history in Western Nevada have been due to this “pineapple express” weather system.



Carson Valley Under Water in 1997



Photo: Xenophilia.wordpress.com

**Flooding is America's most common natural disaster.** Okay, so you don't need an ark, but you do need to be prepared! Have an emergency plan for you, your family and your pets. Do not drive through flood waters. Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle related.

Several myths about flooding that we hear repeatedly include:

**We live in a desert, deserts don't flood.** Anywhere it rains or snows, it can flood, even in a desert.

**We've never been flooded before so we don't have to worry about it.** Wrong! Just because you haven't experienced flooding in the past does not mean that you won't in the future. Changes to surrounding lands, drainage systems and river channels can all affect the way an area floods and can change the flood routes.

For more information on flood safety and for a list of emergency contacts please visit [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org).

## Farewell and Good Luck! We Will Miss You!!



**Pete Livermore represented Carson City from 2001 to 2010.**

Once again, CWSD must bid farewell to a group of outstanding board members. Thanks so much for serving the Carson River Watershed with dedication and passion! We appreciate the many hours and tireless effort put into your service. Under your leadership many great partnerships and projects were developed and implemented.



**Tom Minor represented Lyon County from 2002 - 2010.**

**Gwen Washburn was a voice for Churchill County from 1999 to 2010.**



**Robin Williamson, from Carson City, served on the CWSD Board from 2002 to 2010.**

## Medusahead—A Weed That is Snaking Through Nevada

Medusahead is an aggressive weed which is quickly spreading throughout Nevada. This winter annual crowds out all other vegetation on infested rangeland. Controlling the spread of medusahead is critical, as once it dominates an area, rehabilitation and restoration is difficult and expensive. Dense mats of the weed remain on the ground after it dies, suppressing native plant growth and creating an enormous load of dry fuel that can lead to devastating wildfires.

You can make a difference and help stop medusahead from turning grazing areas into wastelands of weeds that livestock cannot eat. Learn to identify medusahead, and report any sightings at [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org) or to your local weed district.

### What does medusahead look like?



[www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/](http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/)

- Grows 6 to 24 inches tall
- Bright green when most other annuals are brown; then turning to shades of purple and eventually tan
- Long-awned spikes, similar to wheat or rye
- The awns become twisted and spread in all directions, similar to the snake-covered head of the mythological **Medusa**.
- When handled, the seed head will not tear apart, which distinguishes it from a foxtail.



## Carson Clear Water Revival Program—First Demonstration Site Complete!



Project Site at 4100 Meadow Wood Rd

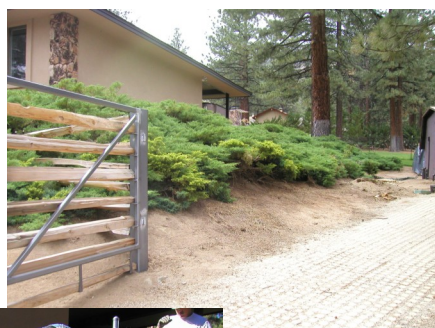


**Our Hero—Paul Corrado!**



Erosion control jute blankets were installed and then planted with erosion control plants.

First step is to remove the junipers (fire hazard) on both sides of home. Notice the permeable pavers that the homeowners had installed.



Over 500 tansy and 1,200 vinca were planted by the project committee and Western Environmental, Inc.



Removing junipers is not an easy thing! Paul had this work done as match to the project.

Cinderlite donated most of the rock that was used to stabilize the toe of the slopes.



Carson City Fuels Reduction Trailer provided a way to get rid of the junipers. Thanks, Carson City!



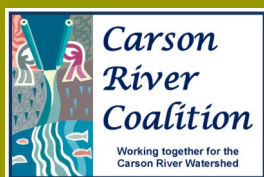
Almost finished! Thanks much to Western Environmental for donating labor, Cinderlite and Western Nevada Supply for donating materials!

In spring of 2011, the Corrado's and the Carson Clear Water Revival Project Team will host an **open house** at the demonstration site. You will be able to learn about the project, designing and installing Best Management Practices (BMPs), and more! It is our hope that many community members will attend and learn how to implement BMPs on their property. BMPs not only reduce stormwater run-off, flooding and fire hazards, they also look great and can increase the value of your property! We want to give special thanks to Judy and Paul Corrado for all their hard work on this project. Paul's enthusiasm and knowledge was invaluable, and his sense of humor made it all fun! Special thanks to Dave Goodell, Jean Stone, JoAnne Skelly, John Cobourn and Genie Azad for getting their hands (and everything else) dirty and working incredibly hard to make this first demonstration project happen!



***Merry Christmas  
from all of us  
here at CWSD!!***

Ed, Genie, Toni,  
Debbie, Kathie and  
the CWSD Board of  
Directors!



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### Upcoming Special Events

#### **Carson River Coalition**

Please join us December 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Carson City Sheriff's Building, Ormsby Room. CRC meetings are open to anyone and we hope you will join us!

#### **Nevada Water Resources Association Conference**

February 2-3, 2011.  
For more information please visit [www.nvwra.org](http://www.nvwra.org)

#### **Carson River 2011 Video Contest Film Festival!**

Hope you can join us for a great evening filled with wonderful video's made by local students! It will be January 27, 2011, at 6:30 at the Carson City Sheriff's Building, Ormsby Room. More details to come.

### **Save A Tree!**

**Prefer to receive a digital copy of this newsletter?**

**Let us know by emailing [debbie@cwsd.org](mailto:debbie@cwsd.org).**



**FOR INFORMATION ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS VISIT [www.cwsd.org](http://www.cwsd.org)**

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